

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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PITTSBURG MAN SENTENCED FOR MANUFACTURING METHAMPHETAMINE

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on December 1, 2005, **FRANKLIN M. WALKER**, a/k/a “Frank,” age 41, of Pittsburg, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. WALKER, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to 262 months’ imprisonment, 10 years supervised release, and was fined \$600. WALKER received an enhanced penalty based on his classification as a Career Offender.

The violation took place between May 2003 and February 14, 2004, in Williamson County, Illinois. The investigation was conducted by the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Williamson County Sheriff’s Office, Marion Police Department, Illinois State Police and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Williamson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses.

The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.